



**Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Clermont County, Chapter 649**

Our Mission

The mission of Chapter 649 of the Vietnam Veterans of America is to provide fellowship, advocacy, education about veteran benefits, as well as financial assistance, as appropriate, to veterans of all eras, pursuant to the founding principle of the Vietnam Veterans of America, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Our annual golf outing is the chapter's largest fund raiser of the year and provides over half of our operating budget. Proceeds from the golf scramble and from other fundraising activities are used to:

- Provide Christmas dinners, groceries and cash to carefully selected needy veterans of Clermont County. In 2016 we supplied needy families (mostly families of currently deployed military members) approximately \$4,000 of groceries and gift cards. We hope to continually increase the number families we can help each year through increased revenue from the golf outing.
- Contribute to other veterans' organizations to strengthen their projects in Clermont County. For example, in 2016 our Chapter contributed to the Clermont County Needy Kids project which was sponsored by American Legion Post 72.
- Sponsor Bingo and "Horse Race" nights at the VA Hospital in Cincinnati.
- Maintain the helicopter, the brick patio, and several other memorials at the Union Township Veterans Memorial Park and hold several ceremonies each year including Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
- Keep members and community veterans, from all wars, abreast of current changes in veteran benefits through monthly newsletters and meetings, maintaining of our website, and attending state and national conventions. In May of 2014, our Chapter co-sponsored a town hall meeting to discuss the effects of Agent Orange on ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.
- Sponsor "Meet and Greets" at the Clermont County Fair and various other public locations in Clermont County. At these events, VVA members talk with area veterans, from WWII to Afghanistan, inform them of the many benefits to which they may be entitled. Assistance with filing for benefits is provided as necessary.

Chapter 649 also engages in a host of community outreach programs which are too numerous to elaborate here, but some of which can be viewed in the photo gallery on our award winning website, vva649.org.